

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT : Yasuo INOUE  
SERIAL NO. : (Con. of 09/819,636)  
FILED : 9 July 2003  
FOR : EXTERNAL STORAGE SUBSYSTEM

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

SIR:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

**Page 1:** After the title and before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION", insert the following:

--This is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/819,636 filed March 29, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 09/379,635 filed August 24, 1999 (abandoned), which is a division of U.S. Serial No. 08/902,362, filed July 29, 1997, Patent No. 5,951,655, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/502,045, filed July 13, 1995, Patent No. 5,689,729, which is a continuation of U.S. Serial No. 07/984,763, filed December 3, 1992, Patent No. 5,459,856. --

**REMARKS**

The specification has been amended to claim priority of copending U.S. Serial No. 09/819,636 filed 29 March 2001, which is a continuation of Serial No. 09/379,635 filed August 24, 1999 (abandoned), which is a division of U.S. Serial No. 08/902,362, filed July 29, 1997, Patent No. 5,951,655, which is continuation of U.S. Serial No. 08/502,045, filed